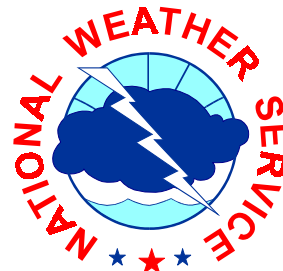


**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



MAY 28, 2002

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Western Region Headquarters Undergoes Change! We are restructuring the Western Region Divisions. The Systems Operations Division has been responsible for many different programs and a large percentage of the regional office staff for years. To promote efficiency and spread out the programmatic and supervisory responsibility, observing programs will be shifted to the Hydrologic Services Division (which will be renamed the Hydrology and Climate Services Division). The Volunteer Observing Ship program (along with PMO staff) will move to Meteorological Services Division. These changes will leave Facilities, Information Technology, Communications and Electronics in SOD. To see our new Organizational chart please refer to the Western Region home page.

In addition to the restructuring, the Wallace Bennett Federal Building, home of WRH, has undergone a major renovation which is nearly complete. After many years, awaiting GSA funding, the building has been refurbished to meet seismic safe standards. Thanks to the Western Region staff for enduring the 12-month project and a special thanks to Jim Campbell for keeping close tabs on GSA, spending hours in meetings with GSA and construction crew, and taking our problems, issues and complaints to GSA.

(L - R) Elaine Robinson and Jim Campbell pose in front of the "new" Federal Building.



**METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES
DIVISION**

STATEMENT OF THE WEEK: From May 19 through May 21, Northern California experienced a round of late season heavy snows in the Sierra Nevada Mountains along with a rare outbreak of severe weather in the Sacramento Valley. The Sacramento WFO staff was kept busy issuing a full range of advisories, watches, and warnings

including five tornado warnings and nine severe thunderstorm warnings during the event. The most noteworthy warning during the three days was the 26+ minute lead time for a tornado near Knights Landing in Yolo County by Lead Forecaster John Juskie. One of the local TV crews even had time to get to the area and film the large, by California standards, tornado. The office also had positive lead times for golf ball size hail producing storms in the southern and eastern portions of their forecast area. Great Job by the entire Sacramento staff!

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TORSAC
CAC101-113-201915-

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED
TORNADO WARNING
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SACRAMENTO CA
1143 AM PDT MON MAY 20 2002

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ISSUED A

* TORNADO WARNING FOR...
SOUTHERN SUTTER COUNTY IN CALIFORNIA
CENTRAL YOLO COUNTY IN CALIFORNIA

* VALID UNTIL 1215 PM PDT

* AT 1140 AM PDT...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR
INDICATED A POSSIBLE TORNADO ABOUT 6 MILES WEST OF
WOODLANDS...OR 30 MILES WEST OF SACRAMENTO...MOVING NORTH
AT 5 MPH.

* SOME LOCATIONS AFFECTED BY THIS WARNING INCLUDE...
NICOLAUS
VERONA
ROBBINS
YOLO
KNIGHTS LANDING
KIRKVILLE

IF YOU ARE CAUGHT OUTSIDE...SEEK SHELTER IN A NEARBY REINFORCED
BUILDING. AS A LAST RESORT...SEEK SHELTER IN A CULVERT...DITCH OR LOW
SPOT AND COVER YOUR HEAD WITH YOUR HANDS.

REPORT SIGNIFICANT WEATHER TO THE NEAREST LAW ENFORCEMENT
AGENCY. THEY WILL RELAY YOUR REPORT TO THE NATIONAL WEATHER
SERVICE FORECAST OFFICE.

LAT...LOW 3877 12199 3864 12185 3882 12148 3903 12169

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JJ

Western Region Marine Weather Workshop: The fifth annual Western Region Marine Weather Workshop was held May 21-24 on the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) campus in Monterey, CA. The workshop, sponsored through the NWSH Training Division and organized by Tom Ainsworth (WRH MSD), provided advanced training in ocean waves, marine hazards in the surf zone (e.g., breaking waves and rip currents), wind and wave observing tools and techniques, and numerical wave prediction. Subject matter experts making presentations this year included Dr. Steve Lyons (The Weather Channel and formerly NWS) on ocean wave characteristics, Dr. Hendrik Tolman (NCEP Ocean Modeling Branch) on the WaveWatch 3 wave model, Dr. Michael Freilich (Principal Investigator on NASA's SeaWinds project and a professor at Oregon State University) on scatterometer derived winds, and Dr. Wendell Nuss, (NPS Meteorology Department) on topographical effects on local coastal winds. Others contributing to the workshop were Dave Gilhousen, National Data Buoy Center, Pat Brandow, Seattle Port Meteorological Officer, Dave Feit, NCEP Marine Prediction Center, Kathy Pegion, MDL marine formatter team, and Marc Hodges, NOAA HAZMAT. This year's workshop participants included 13 forecasters from Western Region, one from Alaska Region (Fairbanks), and for the first time, two from Guam! Western Region Director Vickie Nadolski was able to attend along with representatives from WSH Office of Services (Marine Weather Services Branch), and Western Region and Alaska Region MSDs. The workshop objective is to aid relatively new marine forecasters, who have had little or no formal marine weather training (mostly "OJT"). Participants receive a baseline understanding of how wind drives ocean waves and are given practical operational tools that will help them provide consistent, improved service to NWS marine weather customers. Western Region hopes to continue this training partnership with NPS in FY03.

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

Hydrology Presentations at the Western Region SOO/DOH Workshop:

Presentations were provided at the Western Region SOO/DOH Workshop on several hydrology-related topics. An overview of the Flash Flood Monitoring and Prediction (FFMP) system was provided by Gregg Rishel, WRH/HSD. This system will provide AMBER-like functionality to the WFOs. This tool will provide WFO forecasters with the ability to compare precipitation estimates with flash flood guidance or thresholds for very small basins as a basis for warning decisions. FFMP is integrated within the AWIPS D2D as part of the System for Convection Analysis and Nowcasting (SCAN).

A discussion of the progress of the Western Region Flash Flood Guidance Team was provided by Greg Smith, CBRFC. Greg is the Team Leader of a group that is investigated using GIS in the preparation of flash flood guidance. The potential for using GIS to delineate flash flood prone areas on a small scale was presented. The need for ground truth information on actual flash floods was also discussed.

An overview of Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) and the plans for Western Region AHPS implementation was also presented. Gregg Rishel provided a discussion that also included a definition of AHPS, AHPS goals, and ongoing and future development. All RFCs will be implementing AHPS by the end of FY03. Western Region will be conducting workshops on AHPS for hydrologic program managers in FY02.

For more information on these topics, please contact Gregg Rishel in HSD.

AMBER Case Study Web Page: Brian McInerney, SSH at WFO Salt Lake City, has put together a case study comparing output from the AMBER flash flood guidance software to radar-based reflectivity data. The case study can be found at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Saltlake/projects/redwings/index.htm>. Brian also included a short tutorial on this Web site to introduce people to AMBER. This Web page gives a good insight into AMBER's capabilities and use in the WFO.

Western Region Cooperative Observers Receive Awards: The NWS Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is honoring seven observers with Thomas Jefferson Awards and 27 observers with John Campanius Holm Awards for 2002. These two prestigious awards recognize outstanding cooperative observers who have put in at least 20 years of dedicated service. Of these national awards, Western Region observers received one Jefferson and seven Holm Awards.

Jefferson Award: Alice and Bob Rickman, Grangeville, ID, nominated by WFO Missoula

Holm Award: Richard M. Slagle, Republic, WA, nominated by WFO Spokane; William McKay, Sr., Oracle 2 SE, AZ, nominated by WFO Tucson; Jack and Lorene Davis, Livingston 12 S, MT, nominated by WFO Billings; Alex G. Collie, MacKenzie, MT, nominated by WFO Billings; Richard Efta, Carlyle 12 NW, nominated by WFO Glasgow; Robert Whittle, Oakley, ID, nominated by WFO Pocatello; and Edwina Knowles, Neihart 8 NNW, MT, nominated by WFO Great Falls

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

SOO/DOH Workshop: The Western Region SOO/DOH Workshop was held the week of May 14 at FSL in Boulder, CO. Items covered included the Weather Event Simulator (WES), IFPS, GPRA Goals, and SOO/DOH projects. The presentations from the workshop are on the WR Intranet at: ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/SOODOH2002/soodohagenda2002.htm.

New on WCM Resource Center: Two new items have been added to the Warning Coordination Meteorologist Resource Center. Donna Franklin provided a new version of the StormReady graphic that contains the registered mark, and a "TsunamiReady" sign PDF file for use by WCMs nationally.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR): SOD has the following NWR projects lined up for this summer and fall. The Port Oxford, OR, USDA NWR grant was approved. Transmitters for Burns Butte, OR, Bozeman and Glacier, MT, and Glacier, MT, and Wasco County are either ordered, waiting to be shipped, or being shipped. Formal acceptance of the Sedgewick Peak, ID, NWR, which is already installed, is planned for mid-June. In addition to the new NWR projects, NWR RMS Joe Lachacz participated in a two-day EAS/NWR SAME test in the Las Vegas area. All transmitters successfully triggered a consumer grade SAME receiver.

AWIPS Linux Pre-processor: The NWSH is proposing to install and begin testing the Linux-based AWIPS pre-processor in the Western Region in late July/early August. The pre-processor offloads some of the processing tasks now accomplished by the AWIPS data server.